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Park Tells Hill Probe He Paid \$1 Million to Seoul's Officials

From News Services

Senate investigators quoted Tong-sun Park as telling them yesterday that he paid more than \$1 million to South Korean administrators and legislators in addition to payments to U.S. members of Congress.

"He sent them gifts," Sen. Harrison Schmitt (R-N.M.), co-chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee, told reporters. "I think he referred to them as advances."

Special Counsel Victor Kramer said Park's explanation was that South Korean civil servants are poorly paid while he "was very well off."

The investigators revealed that footnote after completing their closed-door questioning of Park with a two-hour session.

The committee's senior members and Kramer also said they still saw no grounds to indict any present or past senator after the first and final day of testimony from Park.

They again refused to name one senator who had admitted failing to report a payment from Park and two

others who dispute Park's claim that he gave them contributions. Kramer said it was possible the two senators' aides got money from Park without their knowledge.

The Korean rice dealer has admitted giving \$750,000 in campaign donations and business payments to congressmen, including a total of about \$21,500 going to eight senators. He has denied ever being a government agent or making any bribes on Capitol Hill.

But the account of his closing testimony yesterday was the first public disclosure that he paid large amounts of money to officials of his own government while lobbying in Washington and earning about \$9.2 million in commissions on sales of U.S. rice to Korea.

Kramer told reporters Park said he had used "a little over" \$8 million of his income for "expenses," including "more than \$1 million" that "went to payments to officials of the legislative and executive branches" in the Seoul government.